

Personal Statement

I am a surveyor who is now a lecturer in the Department of Geodesy and Geomatic Engineering, Gadjah Mada University (GMU) in Indonesia. Since the commencement of my duty in GMU, I have identified that I have been interested in the field of technical aspects of the law of the sea. Boundary issues are the ones that attracted me really, especially when I had a chance to be involved in the survey of land boundary demarcation between Indonesia and East Timor in 2003. It was to me a great experience and an important momentum to where I am now.

Not only land boundaries, maritime boundaries also attracted me. As a surveyor (technical person), I found it is really challenging to learn the law of the sea and implement legal and technical aspects in solving maritime boundary-related issues. I have identified that Indonesia, as an archipelagic state with ten state neighbours, requires expertise in technical aspects of the law of the sea. As far as I am concerned, there are only few people who have concern in this particular field. There are less than 5 people with formal expertise in this field, indicated by their formal educational backgrounds.

Since the beginning of my involvement in this field I have published significant number of publications. Twenty three (23) publications including journals, newspaper articles, and magazine articles have been published within the last two years. In addition, I have delivered at least twenty (20) presentations (guest lecturers, conferences, seminars) in the maritime boundary-related topics. Two books are going to be published this year (2007), one in English (Monash University, Australia) and one in Bahasa Indonesia (Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia).

As an indication of my seriousness in this particular field, I have finished my master degree in the University of New South Wales, Australia. It was a 2-year master degree by research, which provided me with an excellent experience of conducting research in an independent manner. My thesis is about the study on the delimitation of maritime boundary between Indonesia and East Timor.

With regard to career plans, I will continue my current duties as a lecturer and researcher. As a lecturer, I have created a brand-new subject called Delimitation and Demarcation of Boundaries, which my students found interesting. As a researcher I have conducted several independent researches and keep publishing the results in scientific and popular events/media. In GMU, we have also initiated a centre called “Centre for Boundaries Studies” for research and training purposes.

As an academic, I have been much involved in activities related to ocean affairs and the law of the sea including assessment of maritime boundary delimitation, and translation of important materials into Bahasa Indonesia. At the time of this application I am a UN-Nippon Fellow for “ocean affairs and the law of the sea”. I am conducting research in Australia (6 month) and New York, US (3 months).

Considering the fact that Indonesia has ten potential maritime boundaries with her neighbours and the important roles of technical experts in this matter, I believe that my study in this field will be reasonably important.